IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Rule 1.126 4/20/2004 I.D.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim ~~11~~ 14 (New): An antibody

which has a positive reactivity against myeloid cells and

which recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 that has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.

Claim ~~12~~ 15 (New): The antibody of Claim ~~11~~ 14 which is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim ~~13~~ 16 (New): The monoclonal antibody of Claim ~~12~~ 15 which is IgM.

Claim ~~14~~ 17 (New): The antibody of Claim ~~12~~ 15 which is produced by the hybridoma deposited under the accession number FERM BP-4433.

Claim ~~15~~ 18 (New): A hybridoma which produces a monoclonal antibody

which has a positive reactivity against myeloid cells and

which recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 that has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.

Claim ~~16~~ 19 (New): The hybridoma of claim ~~14~~ 18, which produces an IgM monoclonal antibody.

Claim 17 (New): The hybridoma of claim 14 deposited under accession number FERM BP-4433 (RS38).

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Claim ~~18~~ (New): A method for identifying a synovial cell comprising:

contacting a synovial cell with the antibody of claim ~~11~~ 14 for a time and under conditions suitable for binding of the antibody to the synovial cell,

and measuring binding.

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Claim ~~19~~ (New): The method of claim ~~18~~, wherein said synovial cell is from a subject having rheumatoid arthritis.

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Claim ~~20~~ (New): A method for identifying a subject having rheumatoid arthritis comprising:

contacting a synovial cell from a subject suspected of having rheumatoid arthritis with the antibody of claim ~~11~~ 14 for a time and under conditions suitable for binding, and

determining binding of said antibody to said synovial cell, wherein the occurrence of, or the amount of, binding identifies rheumatoid arthritis in said subject.